

The scriptures tell us that “the strength of sin is the law”, 1Corinthians 15:56. Why then do we try to use the law to please God? The Apostle Paul even wrote an entire epistle to the Galatians asking and answering this same question. He explained that “neither circumcision profits anything nor uncircumcision, but faith which works by love”, 5:6. He also told us “not to let anyone judge you in food or drink or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon or of the Sabbaths”, Colossians 3:16. Actually, almost all of the epistles from all the authors instruct us concerning the Law of Moses in one way or another. Paul spent much time writing about it apparently because he understood it so well. He desired that God’s people would fulfill the law instead of being in bondage to it; to serve God instead of serving the law.

When Israel came out of Egypt in the book of Exodus God gave them His laws and commands to teach them to live right and to control their desires. Instead they turned what God gave them for serving Him into serving a religion. He tells us in 2Corinthians 3:14 that a veil is still over the eyes of Israel when they read the Old Testament. Should we in Christ have the same veil? The most important thing to understand about the Law is that it was designed and given to bring death. What I mean is death of the old self. Romans 7:5-9 ...for without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. When the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul the command “Do not covet” he realized he needed to repent. Of course he understood he needed to “walk in the spirit” as Romans 8 teaches. 2Corinthians chapter 3 says it a different way, “the letter kills, the spirit gives life. Do you see? Do you understand? The Law is against the flesh, the desires and works of the flesh. God did not give the law to Israel to make them perish. They are the ones and we are the ones who choose not to use it for finding repentance. If you are living in sin the law is against you. If you are “walking in the spirit” you don’t need the law. This is the conclusion of Galatians 5.

1 Timothy tells us “the law is for the sinner not the righteous. If you are an honest, generous giver, why would you need a law that says: do not steal? If you keep every day holy, why would you need a law that says: keep one day holy? Do you see the Law is for the disobedient? Remember the new covenant: He will write the law in our hearts. The old was written on a scroll and on tablets of stone. It was

something to obey. The carnal mind does not want to obey. If the Law is written in the heart, then it is a way of life and we will obey our hearts because it is the right thing to do. This shows our love for God and each other.

Jesus said “I came to fulfill the law not destroy it.” We also are expected to fulfill the law as He did. He set the pattern. He set the standard. For example, when we give instead of stealing we are fulfilling the law: do not steal. When we love and serve our wife instead of committing adultery, we are fulfilling the law: do not commit adultery. You see God is not pleased when we only keep the minimum requirement of the law, like do not steal. That is only part of repentance. It is only ceasing from your old works. God also wants us to start a new work. This is what Hebrews 4 verse 10 teaches using the Sabbath as an example, “for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work just as God rested from His.” We are to rest from the old works of sin and the flesh. The labor of our hands should be good works not evil. James 4:9 tells us “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you, cleanse your hands you sinners and purify your hearts you double minded.” We work with our hands, are they clean? 2Corinthians 5:10 tells us “ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Does it sound right to say we will be judged whether we worked at the grocery store or not or if we raked our yard on a Saturday or Sunday? Keeping a day holy is to keep it without sin doing good works as Jesus did. He healed the sick many times just to show that there is more to the command than what the carnal mind can see. Many religions keep a “Sabbath” command with their carnal understanding and think they are pleasing God. Hebrews 4 and Isaiah 58 explain what He wants us to see, just as Ephesians 5:28 shows us what He meant by the command “Do not steal”. This is true repentance, doing both, putting to death the old and putting on the new. He will be pleased when we are doing what He is doing. Matthew 5:48 “Be therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect. God wants us to find out His ways and learn to serve and love Him instead of serving a law or a religion. Read Exodus 16 with the focus on verse 4 and you will see why God has hidden these things from most people.

Eye Openers
by C. Strande

Is There a Veil Over Your Heart?

